



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/936,840	01/07/2002	Damien Rosney	1890-0018	1494
7590 11/30/2004			EXAMINER	
Nixon Peabody LLP			NGUYEN, VI X	
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800			ART UNIT	
McLean, VA 22102			3731	
			PAPER NUMBER	

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/936,840

Applicant(s)

ROSNEY ET AL.

Examiner

Victor X Nguyen

Art Unit

3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 6-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1 and 6-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group II, claim 13 Specie 1, Figs. 2-4 in 8/13/2004 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated **as an election without traverse** (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 1 and 6-12 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

The requirement is deemed proper and is therefore made **Final**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brinkerhoff et al.

(U.S. 5,366,478).

Brinkerhoff et al show in figs. 3-4, a surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery having the limitations of claim 13, including: a body cavity engagement means (15) for insertion into the incision to locate the device in position, a fixing means (see col. 5, lines 8-14) for attaching the device to a patient's skin which includes a ring (19,20), where the body cavity engagement means is adjustable so that the positioning of the ring is capable of retracting the

Art Unit: 3731

body cavity in order to define an access port (17) and creates a sealing means (10) between the incision and the body cavity, and where additional sealing means incorporating a toroid cell (11,13). As best seen in fig. 4, Brinkerhoff et al disclose that the sealing function of the sealing device (10) when an endoscopic instrument (23) is positioned through the lumen (21) of the sealing device. The internal gas pressure forces the central lumen to close around the surface of the endoscopic instrument to seal the abdominal cavity (14) from gas leakage.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 13 have been considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to claim 13, the examiner disagrees with applicant's remarks that the Brinkerhoff et al reference fails to disclose that a body cavity engagement means that is adjustable by positioning of a ring to create a seal between the incision and the body cavity engagement means. As the examiner has pointed out above, Brinkerhoff discloses that a fixing means (see col. 5, lines 8-14) for attaching the device to a patient's skin which includes a ring (19,20), where the body cavity engagement means is adjustable so that the positioning of the ring is capable of retracting the body cavity in order to define an access port (17) and creates a sealing means (10) between the incision and the body cavity. As best seen in fig. 4, Brinkerhoff et al disclose that the sealing function of the sealing device (10) when an endoscopic instrument (23) is positioned through the lumen (21) of the sealing device. The internal gas pressure forces the central lumen to close around the surface of the endoscopic instrument to seal the abdominal cavity (14) from gas leakage. Therefore, claim 13 of the invention is not defined over the Brinkerhoff et al reference.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 3731

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor X Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4699. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4.30 P.M).

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Victor X Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 3731

Vn *√N*
11/24/2004

Julian W. Woo

JULIAN W. WOO
PRIMARY EXAMINER